

CLAIMS:

1. A panel attachment system comprising:

a plurality of covering panels each presenting a flange, wherein the flange includes at least one locking member protruding perpendicularly therefrom; and

at least one retaining member having a slot for receiving the flanges and interlocking with the locking member in order to secure the flanges to the retaining member.

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2. The panel attachment system of claim 1, wherein the retaining member includes a drainage channel positioned below the slot.

3. The panel attachment system of claim 1, further comprising a mounting structure for securing the retaining member to a surface.

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4. The panel attachment system of claim 3, wherein the retaining member is secured to the mounting structure by sliding the retaining member into the mounting structure.

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5. A panel attachment system comprising:

a plurality of covering panels each presenting a flange, wherein the flange includes at least one locking member protruding therefrom; and at least one retaining member having a slot for receiving the flanges and interlocking with the locking member in order to secure the flanges to the retaining member, wherein the slot substantially extends along the retaining member's entire length.

10 6. The panel attachment system of claim 5, further comprising a mounting structure for securing the retaining member to a surface.

15 7. The panel attachment system of claim 6, wherein the retaining member is secured to the mounting structure by sliding the retaining member into the mounting structure.

8. The panel attachment system of claim 7, further comprising a plurality of retaining members, wherein each retaining member is secured to a corresponding mounting structure.

20 9. The panel attachment system of claim 5, wherein the covering panels include a lip for mating engagement with a corresponding lip of an adjacent panel.

10. The panel attachment system of claim 5, wherein the retaining member includes a drainage channel positioned below the slot.

25 11. The panel attachment system of claim 5, wherein the drainage channel is configured to collect surface drainage matter passing through the slot and to channel the matter away from a surface.

12. The panel attachment system of claim 5, wherein the slot is formed between walls rising from a base of the retaining member.

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13. A panel attachment system comprising:

- a plurality of covering panels each presenting a pair of opposed longitudinal flanges, wherein each flange includes a plurality of locking members protruding perpendicularly therefrom;
- 5 a retaining member having a slot and a drainage channel positioned below the slot, wherein the slot substantially extends along the retaining member's entire length and is configured for receiving the flanges and interlocking with the locking members in order to secure the flanges to the retaining member; and
- 10 a mounting structure for securing the retaining member to a surface.

14. The panel attachment system of claim 13, wherein the locking members protrude from an interior side of the longitudinal flanges.

15. The panel attachment system of claim 13, wherein the locking members are integral with the longitudinal flanges.

16. The panel attachment system of claim 13, wherein the locking members are sloped to assist in interlocking with the retaining member.

20 17. The panel attachment system of claim 13, wherein the slot is formed between a pair of walls extending from the retaining member.

25 18. The panel attachment system of claim 13, wherein the retaining member is secured to the mounting structure by interlocking the retaining member and mounting structure.

30 19. The panel attachment system of claim 18, wherein the retaining member and mounting structure are interlocked by sliding the retaining member into the mounting structure.

20. The panel attachment system of claim 13, wherein the drainage channel is configured to collect surface drainage matter passing through the slot and to channel the matter away from the surface.

5       21. The panel attachment system of claim 13, wherein the covering panels include a lip for mating engagement with a corresponding lip of an adjacent panel.

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22. A panel attachment system comprising:

- a plurality of covering panels each presenting a pair of opposed, longitudinal flanges and a pair of lips, wherein each flange includes a plurality of locking members protruding from an interior side thereof, each locking member is sloped, and each lip is configured for mating engagement with a corresponding lip of an adjacent panel;
- a plurality of retaining members each having-
  - a pair of opposed side walls,
  - a top wall connected to the each side wall,
  - an angled interior wall connected to each top wall, wherein the angled interior walls extend towards each other to form a slot therebetween which substantially extends along the retaining member's entire length and is configured for receiving the flanges and interlocking with the locking members in order to secure the flanges to the retaining member,
  - a pair of opposed raised lips formed on a base of the retaining member for securing and aligning the retaining member, wherein the walls form a drainage channel positioned below the slot configured for receiving any drainage matter passing through the slot; and
- a plurality of mounting structures each having-
  - a pair of opposed grooves configured to receive the lips such that the retaining member may be secured to the mounting structure by sliding the raised lips into the grooves, and
  - at least one mounting aperture to allow the mounting structure to be secured to a surface.

23. The panel attachment system of claim 22, wherein the mounting structures and retaining members are configured to form a composite drainage channel through the retaining members such that drainage matter is channeled through the plurality of retaining members and away from the surface.

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